

Remarks

A. Status

Claims 1-32 were pending. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended, and claims 2 and 17 have been canceled. No new matter was added. Claims 1, 3-16, and 18-32 will be pending upon entry of the amendments.

B. Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview held with Applicants' representative Michael C. Barrett on November 16, 2006. During that interview, the pending claims were discussed in relation to the Section 102 rejections. No final determinations were made regarding the present rejections, but the Examiner agreed to consider arguments presented in writing made in response to the Office Action.

C. Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 5, 9, 16, 22, 24, and 32 stand rejected as being allegedly anticipated by the Ryu reference. Claims 1, 9, 16, 24, 27, and 32 stand rejected as being allegedly anticipated by the Ramkissoo-Ganorkar reference. The Examiner objected to claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-15, 17-21, 23, 25, 26, and 28-31 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, thereby indicating that these claims contain allowable subject matter. *See* Office Action, page 3.

While Applicants respectfully traverse the current rejections (the claims are believed to include elements and combinations of elements that are absent from the cited art), independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to incorporate subject matter from now-canceled claims 2 and 17¹. Since subject matter of claims 2 and 17 has already been indicated as allowable (*see* Office Action, page 3), all the rejections are believed to be overcome. Applicants respectfully

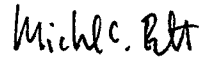
¹ Claims 1 and 16 clarified "parts by weight" and "100 parts by weight total." Claim 16 also added sub-parts to better delineate the elements of that claim.

request a notice of allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue additional subject matter in one or more continuing applications.

D. Conclusion

Applicants believe that this submission fully responds to all outstanding matters for this application. Should the Examiner have any questions or desire to sustain any rejections or objections, the courtesy of a telephone conference is respectfully requested in advance so that all pending matters may be more efficiently resolved.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael C. Barrett
Reg. No. 44,523
Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
Telephone: (512) 536-3018
Facsimile: (512) 536-4598

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